



Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks and 2005 Production
Hogs & Pigs Inventory
Egg Production

November U.S. Milk Production Up 4.6 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major states during November totaled 13.0 billion pounds, up 4.6 percent from November 2004. October revised production, at 13.3 billion pounds, was up 4.0 percent from October 2004. The October revision represented a decrease of 17 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major states averaged 1,590 pounds for November, 59 pounds above November 2004.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major states was 8.16 million head, 60,000 head more than November 2004, and 2,000 head more than October 2005.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.7 million head on December 1, 2005. The inventory was 3 percent above December 1, 2004 and 3 percent above December 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 2.05 million, 17 percent above 2004 and 6 percent above 2003. Net placements were 1.95 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 660,000, 600-699 pounds were 650,000, 700-799 pounds were 420,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 315,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.70 million, 4 percent above 2004 and 11 percent above 2003.

Other disappearance totaled 91,000 during November, 16 percent below 2004 and 6 percent below 2003.

November Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during November 2005. Red meat production was down 5 percent from the previous month, but 5 percent above the previous year.

Cattle slaughtered statewide totaled 1,700 head, which was 100 head above a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,113 pounds, was down 16 pounds from 2004. During November there were 1,200 hogs slaughtered in Montana, 100 head more than a year ago. The average live weight, at 246 pounds, decreased 7 pounds from 2004. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 400 head, was 100 head above the previous year. The average live weight was down 6 pounds from last year to 112 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.94 billion pounds in November, up 5 percent from the 3.77 billion pounds produced in November 2004.

Beef production, at 2.07 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, up 5 percent from November 2004. The average live weight was up 16 pounds from the previous year, at 1,284 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.4 million pounds, 10 percent below November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 56,300 head, down 17 percent from November 2004. The average live weight was 29 pounds above last year, at 365 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.84 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.13 million head, 2 percent above November 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.8 million pounds, was down 4 percent from

November 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 224,500 head, 7 percent below last year. The average live weight was 141 pounds, up 5 pounds from November a year ago.

January to November 2005 commercial red meat production was 41.8 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

December 1 Potato Stocks

The 13 major potato States held 253 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2005, down 6 percent from last year and 5 percent below December 1, 2003, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 68 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, 1 percentage point above last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 12 percent round white, 2 percent long white (Shepody), and 83 percent russets, with fewer long whites and more round whites and russets than a year ago for comparable States.

Disappearance of 120 million cwt from the start of harvest to December 1, is down 8 percent from last year and 10 percent below 2 years ago for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 14.0 million cwt, is down 9 percent from last year and 6 percent below the same date in 2003 for comparable States.

Processors have used 65.9 million cwt of 2005 crop potatoes so far this season, down 7 percent from a year ago and 9 percent below 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, total processing decreased 7 percent from a year ago and Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing dropped 6 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 12.2 million cwt of the total processing, down 16 percent from last year and 14 percent below the same date in 2003.(continued on page two)

December 1 Potato Stocks (continued from front page)

Western States held 176 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, down 5 percent from last year and 1 percent below 2 years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are down 10 percent from last year, Colorado's potato sheds stored 9 percent less than in 2004, stocks in Montana are 6 percent below last season, and California's stocks decreased 47 percent from last year. Oregon's potato stocks are up 12 percent from last year and Washington's potato sheds stored 4 percent more than last season.

Central States accounted for 61.2 million cwt of potato stocks on December 1, down 9 percent from last year and 14 percent below 2 years ago for comparable States. Wisconsin's potato stocks are down 2 percent from last year, North Dakota's potato sheds are 29 percent below last season, and Nebraska's stocks decreased 10 percent from December 1, 2004. Michigan and Minnesota's potato sheds both stored 4 percent more than last year.

Eastern States stored 16.0 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, down 8 percent from last year and 1 percent below 2 years ago for comparable States. Maine's potato

sheds hold 14 percent less than last year, while New York's potato stocks increased 35 percent from a year ago.

2005 Potato Production

Production of fall potatoes for 2005 is forecast at 383 million cwt, virtually unchanged from last month but down 7 percent from last year for comparable states. Indiana was dropped from the program in 2005. Area harvested, at 952,300 acres, is up less than 1 percent from November but 7 percent below last year. The average yield is forecast at a record high 402 cwt per acre, unchanged from last month but 1 cwt above the previous record set last year.

Western states production is forecast at 268 million cwt, up less than 1 percent from the November forecast but down 5 percent from last year. Acreage harvested, at 600,400 acres, decreased 7 percent from last year but the average yield of 446 cwt per acre is up 8 cwt from 2004. Growing conditions through out the Western states were generally favorable. Idaho's potato production, forecast at 117 million cwt, is 11 percent below last year and the lowest since 1989. Planted and harvested acres in

Idaho are the lowest since 1986. Yield in Washington, is forecast at 620 cwt, 30 cwt above last year. If realized this will be a record high yield, exceeding the previous record established in 2000 by 20 cwt. Production, at 95.5 million cwt, is 2 percent above last year. Colorado's production is expected to decrease 6 percent from 2004 but yields are up 15 cwt per acre. A long growing season and adequate irrigation water allowed potatoes to size larger. Oregon's production is forecast to be up 11 percent due to the record high yield of 594 cwt per acre, 51 cwt above the previous record high established in 2000.

In Montana, production is expected to be down 3 percent but the crop quality is reported to be good. In California, production is forecast to be down 11 percent. Cool weather in late spring and early summer led to smaller potatoes and lower yields. Nevada growers expect a 19 percent decrease in production. New Mexico's production is expected to be up 23 percent from last year. This increase is due to the inclusion of summer potatoes into New Mexico's fall potato forecast in 2005. All potato production for New Mexico is forecast up 3 percent. (continued on page three)

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, December 1, 2004-2005 1/

STATE	2004 CROP			2005 CROP		
	Production	Stocks Dec. 1, 2004	% of Production	Production	Stocks Dec. 1, 2005	% of Production
	1,000 Cwt.		Percent	1,000 Cwt.		Percent
CA	3,648	3,000	82	3,240	1,600	49
CO	23,791	18,000	76	22,292	16,300	73
ID	131,970	93,500	71	116,975	84,000	72
ME	19,065	15,000	79	15,820	12,900	82
MI	13,650	8,000	59	13,920	8,300	60
MN	18,920	13,000	69	17,630	13,500	77
MT	3,551	3,500	99	3,434	3,300	96
NE	9,288	6,300	68	8,106	5,700	70
NY	5,184	2,300	44	5,226	3,100	59
ND	26,765	19,600	73	20,500	14,000	68
OH	1,080	200	19	2/	2/	2/
OR	19,775	17,000	86	22,023	19,000	86
PA	2,640	1,600	61	2/	2/	2/
WA	93,810	50,000	53	95,480	52,000	54
WI	30,450	20,100	66	29,050	19,700	68
15 States	403,587	271,100	67	373,696	253,400	68

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2005 totaled 24.7 million cwt. 2/ Stock estimates discontinued in 2005.

North Dakota's production is forecast to be down 23 percent due in part to a 19 percent decrease in harvested acres. Flooding in the major potato producing region caused growers to abandon a larger amount of acres than normal. Yields are also expected to be down from last year. Minnesota production is forecast to be 7 percent below last year. In Nebraska,

Eastern States production is forecast at 24.5 million cwt, virtually unchanged from the November forecast but down 12 percent from last year. Area for harvest totaled 90,500 acres, unchanged from last month but 4 percent below last year. Average yield, at 271 cwt per acre, is unchanged from November but 23 cwt below last season. Drought conditions during the summer in Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island reduced yields. A 17 percent decrease in production from last year is expected in Maine, 22 percent in Massachusetts, and

28 percent for Rhode Island. New York growers expect a 1 percent increase in production and a 4 percent increase is expected in Pennsylvania from the previous season.

The inventory of all hogs and pigs in Montana on December 1, 2005 was 175,000 head, 6 percent above a year ago, according to the Montana Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Breeding stock was up 6 percent from last December to 18,000 head. Market hog numbers increased to 157,000 head, up 6 percent from 2004.

There were 33,000 sows farrowed in Montana during the December 2004 through November 2005 season, up 2 percent from a year ago. The number of pigs per litter increased 1 percent to 9.67 and resulted in an annual pig crop of 319,000 head, a 3 percent increase from last year. (continued on back page)

	MONTANA				UNITED STATES			
	2003	2004	2005	'05/'04	2003	2004	2005	'05/'04
	1,000 Head			Pct.	1,000 Head			Pct.
All Hogs & Pigs	170	165	175	106	60,044	60,975	61,197	100
Breeding Hogs	18	17	18	106	6,009	5,969	6,011	101
Market Hogs & Pigs								
Under 60 lbs.	50	48	50	104	19,778	19,980	19,955	100
60-119 lbs.	37	37	40	108	13,238	13,439	13,552	101
120-170 lbs.	35	33	34	103	11,109	11,186	11,266	101
180 lbs. & over	30	30	33	110	10,311	10,401	10,414	100
Total	152	148	157	106	54,434	55,005	55,186	100
Sows Farrowed								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	37.0	32.5	33.0	102	11,428	11,498	11,504	100
Pig Crop								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	338	310	319	103	101,491	102,780	103,685	101
Pigs per Litter: (Actual number)								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	9.14	9.54	9.67	101	8.88	8.94	9.01	101
1/ December previous year.								

Hog Inventory (continued from page three)

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2005 was 61.2 million head. This was up slightly from December 1, 2004, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2005. Breeding inventory, at 6.01 million head, was up 1 percent from last year and last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 55.2 million head, was up slightly from last year but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The September-November 2005 U.S. pig crop, at 26.1 million head, was up 1 percent from 2004 and up 2 percent from 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.89 million head, unchanged from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.03 for the September-November 2005 period, compared to 8.96 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.88 million sows farrow during the December 2005-February 2006 quarter, up 1 percent from the actual farrowings during the

same period in both 2005 and 2004. Intended farrowings for March-May 2006, at 2.89 million sows, are up slightly from 2005 and up 1 percent from 2004.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 38 percent last year.

November Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.54 billion during November 2005, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.48 billion table eggs, and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 996 million were broiler-type and 60 million were egg-type. The number of layers during November 2005 averaged 347 million, up 1 percent from a year earlier. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,175 eggs, up slightly from November 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 2005, totaled 348 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 348 million layers consisted of 291 million layers producing

table-type eggs, 54.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.61 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 2005, averaged 72.4 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from December 1, 2004.

Egg-type chicks hatched during November 2005 totaled 32.8 million, down 15 percent from November 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 34.7 million on December 1, 2005, down 3 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 181,000 during November 2005, down 20 percent from November 2004.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during November 2005 totaled 747 million, up 2 percent from November 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 658 million on December 1, 2005, up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.30 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during November 2005, up 2 percent from November 2004.

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10 W. 15th Street, Suite 3100, Helena, Montana 59626
406-441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612
www.nass.usda.gov/mt/ nass-mt@nass.usda.gov